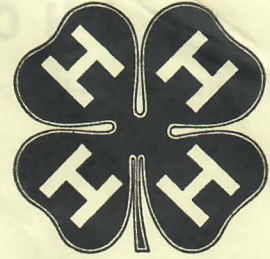


# HORSE AND PONY Manual and Record



**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

**Agricultural Extension Service**

**Lafayette, Indiana**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years in 4-H including this year \_\_\_\_\_



# 4-H Club Horse and Pony Manual and Record

by ERIC HOLM, 4-H Department, Purdue University

The author expresses appreciation to: George Daigh, Urbana, Ill.; Roscoe Stangland, Goshen; Dale Kasten, Fort Wayne; E. L. Potter, Corvallis, Ore.; Paul C. Barker, Berkeley, Cal.; and Byron E. Colby, Amherst, Mass., who offered suggestions in the preparation of the horse and pony circular.

## Nineteen Steps in the 4-H Horse and Pony Project

	Page
Selecting a Breed of Horses or Ponies . . . . .	5
Selecting the Individual Horse . . . . .	5
Suggestions on Feeding Ponies or Light Horses . . . . .	7
Selection and Care of Tack (Equipment) . . . . .	12
Grooming Horses or Ponies . . . . .	14
Guide to Rides—Trails, Roads, and Open Country . . . . .	15
Stable Development and Management . . . . .	16
Gaits of Horses (Ponies Walk and Trot) . . . . .	18
Keeping Records . . . . .	19
Know the Colors of Horses or Ponies . . . . .	19
Learn the Markings . . . . .	20
How to Measure Height . . . . .	20
General Care and Management . . . . .	21
What to Wear in a Show . . . . .	22
Handling Your Horse . . . . .	23
Teaching Your Horse or Pony . . . . .	24
Pasturing Horses and Ponies . . . . .	26
Learn Horse and Pony Definitions . . . . .	26
What Do I Show? . . . . .	27

4-59 (4M)

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, State of Indiana, Purdue University and U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. L. E. Hoffman, Director, Lafayette, Ind. Issued in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.



### 4-H'ers Ride Forward

Within a few years thousands of boys and girls will join the 4-H pony and saddle horse club here in Indiana. They will discover the satisfaction and genuine pleasure that wholesome outdoor activities bring.

Whether it be a young foal to be raised or trained or an older horse or pony already practically schooled, each animal will present a challenge.

This project will provide an opportunity for club members to learn by doing and to take part in group activities and obtain direction in the use of leisure time.

### Objectives of The Project

The purpose of the 4-H saddle horse and pony program is to help 4-H boys and girls achieve the following:

1. Develop a greater love for animals and a humane attitude toward them.
2. Provide leadership, initiative, self-reliance, and sportsmanship.
3. Prepare for citizenship responsibilities by working together in groups.
4. Supporting community or county clubs.
5. Owning or in partnership a pony or horse.
6. Training, feeding, managing, and record keeping work on at least one animal.
7. To learn to cooperate and be courteous to 4-H members, leaders, and parents.

### Requirements for the

### 4-H Horse or Pony Management Club

1. Enroll as a 4-H member in your regular 4-H club.
2. You must be at least 10 years of age and not over 20.
3. Own a horse, pony, or colt, or have the use of one of the animals for at least six months each year of enrollment.
4. If your animal is in partnership, have a working signed agreement with your partner. Use the agreement in the record section of this book.
5. Keep the regular and stable record up to date.
6. Attend all your 4-H meetings. Your attendance will help make your club a standard or even a 4-H Honor Club.
7. Take part in 4-H saddle club programs and activities.
8. Give at least one talk or demonstration before your club.
9. You should have the following jobs or responsibilities of caring for your horse or pony:
  - a. Feeding and watering daily
  - b. Doing the stall work (cleaning, bedding)
  - c. Doing the grooming daily
  - d. Taking care of the tack or equipment
10. Exhibit your horse or pony at a local or county exhibit.

## The Divisions of the Project

### Division I—Horsemanship

This division can be taken for three years as follows:

#### 1st year

Complete four or more of the tasks from the tasks list. Two of these must come from the first six tasks in the list. Give one demonstration before the club from task list.

#### 2nd year

Complete eight of the tasks from the tasks list. Four of these must come from tasks 1 through 12.

First year tasks don't count. Give two demonstrations before the club from the task list.

#### 3rd year

Complete twelve of the tasks from the tasks list. These must be new tasks. Give three demonstrations before the club from task list.

### General Requirements

1. This division should be started when the horse or pony is purchased or on partnership agreement and not later than May 1. It is designed for the member interested in learning the art of





**Figure 1. A Nice Class at the County 4-H Pony Show. The First Three Are Ponies Under 46 Inches. Most Judges Prefer no Braiding of Mane or Tail.**

feeding, managing, training, and the correct riding of ponies and horses. Complete records should be kept.

2. The tasks four, eight or twelve must be approved by the leader or a member of the 4-H horsemanship committee.

3. Exhibit horse or pony at the halter or at bridle and mounted at county exhibit. (If General Requirement No. 2 has not been completed, it can be done at the county exhibit.)

## **Division II—Breeding and Management**

### **1st Year—Yearling Filly**

This division could be the best for beginners because it can be a long time project. At two years of age the mare could be bred.

Start with one yearling filly grade or registered. Start by January 1. The filly must be born the previous year.

1. Keep feed and management record.
2. Train filly to a few tasks listed in horsemanship project.
3. Show filly at the halter.

### **2nd Year—Two Year Old Mare**

You may use the yearling filly to enroll in the year of the project. An older member may begin with this unit.

1. Start with one two year old mare grade or registered.

2. Keep complete records.
3. Breed mare to a purebred stallion from July to September.
4. Show mare at halter or bridle and mounted.
5. Train mare in several horsemanship tasks.

### **3rd Year—Mare and Foal**

You may use the two-year-old mare in your second year to enroll in this unit. However, this mare must be in foal. If you are an older member, you may start with this division by purchasing a bred mare.

1. Start with bred mare grade or purebred.
2. Keep complete records.
3. Show mare and foal at the halter. Mare may be shown under saddle.
4. Rebreed mare to registered stallion during July to September.

### **Special Note**

Many 4-H members may need financial help to start in this project. Enter into a partnership agreement with your parents or a close friend. Consult your leader in filling out the agreements in your record book.

### **Recommended Horsemanship Tasks**

1. Know the common horse terms.
2. Name the breeds of light horses and ponies.
3. Know the common color characteristics of horses and ponies.
4. Know and identify the parts of a horse.
5. Know how to start and end a ride in cool weather.
6. Describe the parts of the hoof.
7. Report on the characteristics, origin, and use of your favorite breed.
8. Describe and point out the ideal horse conformation.
9. Explain and demonstrate the three natural gaits of a horse.
10. Explain the slow gait and rack. (Demonstrate if you have a five-gaited horse).
11. Know and describe the diseases and parasites of horses and ponies.



12. Describe or show how to determine the age of a horse by its teeth.

13. Know and identify the parts of your equipment.

14. Demonstrate how to care for your equipment.

15. Know at least 10 of the safety rules of good horsemanship.

16. Describe and show the kinds of feed necessary for a horse.

17. Describe how to feed the foal and yearling.

18. Demonstrate the proper methods of grooming.

19. Name and locate unsoundnesses as shown in the manual.

20. Lead your horse at halter at the walk and trot.

21. Properly approach, halter, bridle, and saddle your horse.

22. Mount; ride at the walk, trot, and canter, using good seat and hands; back your mount, dismount.

23. Demonstrate control of your animal at all speeds, using proper reining, seat, and hands.

24. Gather, start, turn, and stop your horse when asked.

25. Demonstrate a series of figure 8's, changing lead at the canter.

26. Start to canter from the trot, taking first the right lead and then the left.

27. Start to canter from the walk, taking first the right lead and then the left.

28. Start to canter from a standing position, taking first the right lead and then the left.

29. Trot with and without posting. When posting, use either diagonal upon request.

30. Trot a figure "8", posting on outside diagonal at all times.

31. Canter in a circle, using proper lead; reverse.

32. Back your horse mounted and unmounted; ground-tie your horse.

33. Demonstrate the proper performance in the show ring as outlined in the manual.

34. Demonstrate how to prepare for a show.

35. You may add other equally challenging tests of your own choice that are satisfactory to the committee or leader approving the tasks.



**As a Member of This Club We Will Help You Learn  
Step by Step How to Be A Better Horseman**

## **Step 1. Selecting a Breed of Horses or Ponies**

1. In choosing a breed of horse or pony to raise, consider the demand of sales possibility of a breed, personal preference, adaptability to the conditions and location in which they are to be grown.

If you want to raise horses to sell, select a breed

in demand. Personal preference should play a part, because you will be happier raising a breed you like. If an owner is not interested in producing horses that will sell readily, his personal preference should receive first consideration.

## **Step 2. Selecting the Individual Horse**

Selecting the individual horse can be even more important than selecting the breed. When selecting horses, choose those that approach the ideal of the breed. Look for sound, alert, healthy horses of the correct type and conformation. Consider natural disposition in selecting breeding stock.

Older horses that have been trained carefully are safer for children than well-trained young horses. Remember small size does not make a pony safe for a child. For riding and working, training may be of more importance than the type.



**Table 1. Learn more about your favorite breed of horse or pony.**

<b>Breeds of Light Horses</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Location of Headquarters</b>
American Saddle Horse	Three- and five-gaited saddlers for show and bridle path.	American Saddle Horse Breeders' Assn. 929 S. Fourth Street Louisville 2, Kentucky
Arabian	Parade, stock or saddle horse.	Arabian Horse Club of America 111 West Monroe Street Chicago 3, Illinois
Appaloosa	Parade and stock horse.	Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc. Moscow, Idaho
Hackney	Heavy harness or carriage horse.	American Hackney Horse Society Room 1737, 43 Broadway New York, New York
Morgan	Combination roadster and saddler, or stock horse.	The Morgan Horse Club, Inc. 90 Broad Street New York 4, New York
Palamino	Parade and stock horse.	The Palamino Horse Assn. Box, 446 Reseda, California or Palamino Horse Breeders of America Box 79, Mineral Wells, Texas
Pinto	Parade and stock horse.	The Pinto Horse Society Box 206 Concord, Calif.
Quarter Horse	Quarter racing and stock horse.	American Quarter Horse Assn. 1405-6 West Tenth Avenue Amarillo, Texas
Standardbred	Racing in harness—trotters and pacers; fine harness or roadsters.	United States Trotting Assn. 1349 East Broad Street Columbus 5, Ohio
Tennessee Walking Horse	Plantation walking horse.	Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' Assn. Lewisburg, Tennessee
Thoroughbred	Racing under saddle—flat and steeplechase; hunting, polo, saddle.	The Jockey Club 250 Park Avenue New York 17, New York
<b>Breeds of Ponies</b>		
Shetland	Saddle or harness use for children.	American Shetland Pony Club Lafayette, Indiana
Welsh	Saddle or harness use for children.	Welsh Pony Society of America 409 West Engineering Building University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan



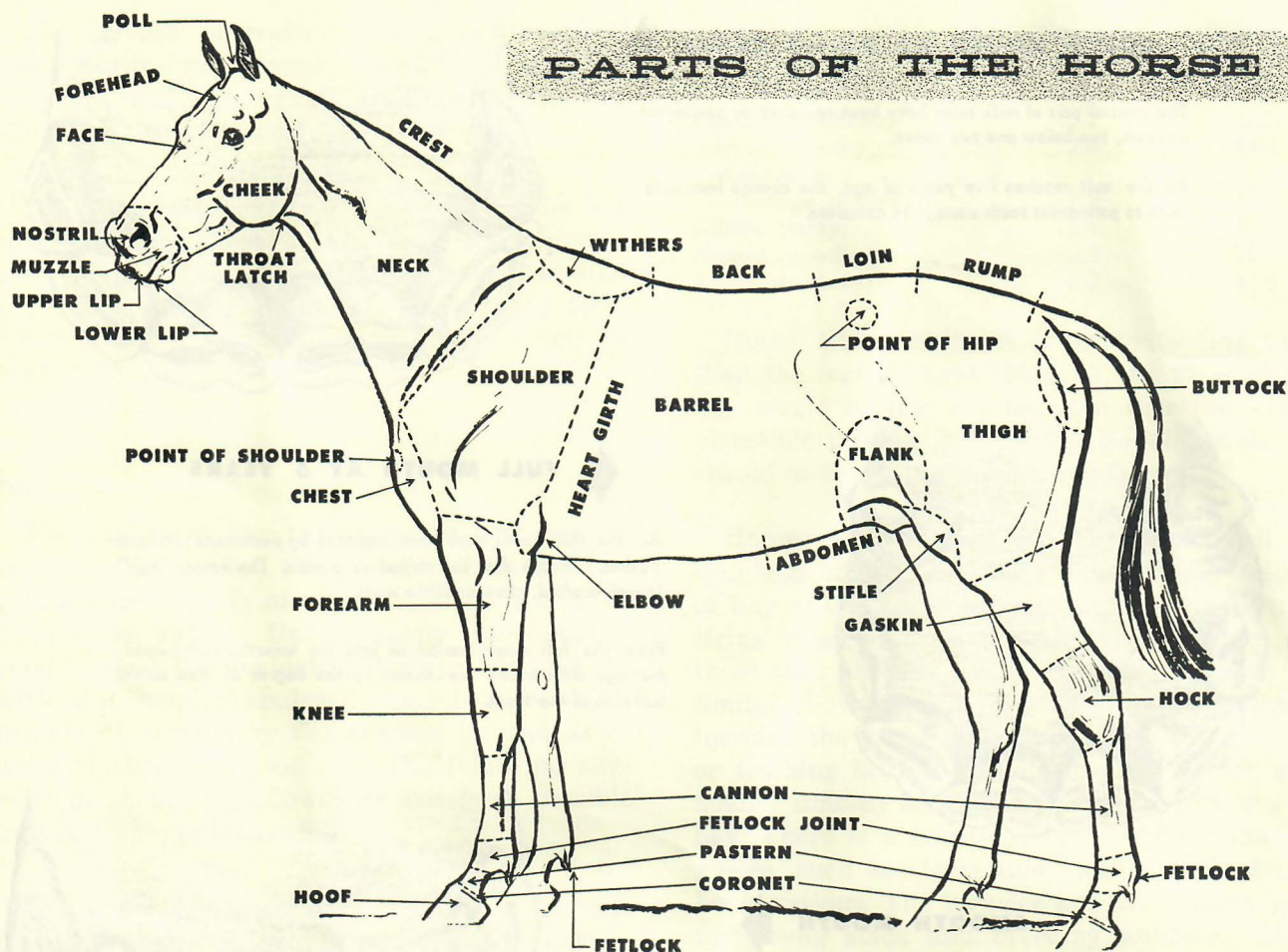


Figure 2. Parts of the Horse.

Photo Courtesy of California Extension Service.

## Step 3. Suggestions on Feeding Ponies or Light Horses

1. *Be sure the animal's teeth are sound.* A troublesome tooth can cause a horse on good feed to get down in condition.

2. *Horses and ponies should be fed as individuals.* Some animals are nervous, of different age, different size, some are doing a different amount of work such as riding or driving, some will be pregnant or the mare may be milking for a foal. It is obvious that different feeding is required under these different conditions.

3. *Know the approximate weight and age of your animal.* You can use this information in balancing rations. Larger animals require more feed than smaller animals. Younger, growing animals have different protein requirements than older animals.

4. *Have regular feeding times.* The horse is a creature of habit.

5. *Avoid sudden changes in the kind of feed—make changes slowly.*

6. *Feed the largest portion of hay at night* as hay is bulky and slower to digest than grain.

7. *Allow the horse time for digestion before working him.* If you must work him immediately after feeding—feed less.

8. *Never feed mouldy, dusty or dirty feeds* as some horses are very sensitive to these feeds.

9. *Don't feed grain to a hot horse* or allow him all the water he wants when he is very hot.

10. *You should clean the manger or grain box regularly.* Hay should be kept off the floor especially in box stalls or it may become contaminated and be a source of worms or internal parasites.

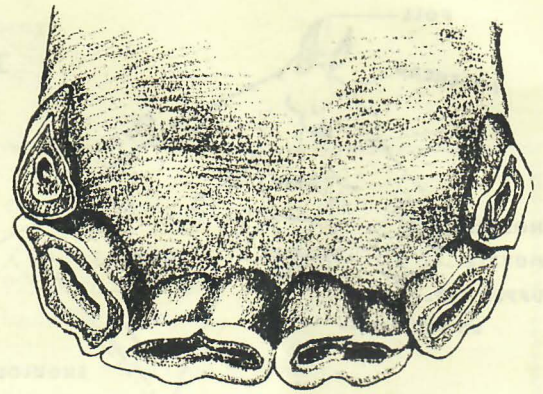
11. *Feed the grain in three equal parts* as it is a high energy feed.



### COLT'S MOUTH AT 2½-3 YEARS ➔

The central pair of milk teeth have been replaced by permanent incisors, two below and two above.

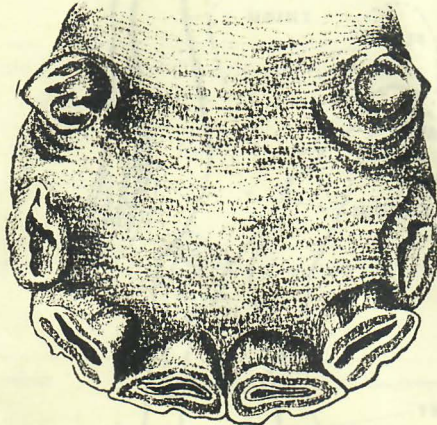
As the colt reaches five years of age, the change from milk teeth to permanent teeth usually is complete.



### ◀ FULL MOUTH AT 5 YEARS

All the milk teeth have been replaced by permanent incisors. Tushes indicate that the animal is a male. The dental "cup" is well-marked, showing little wear.

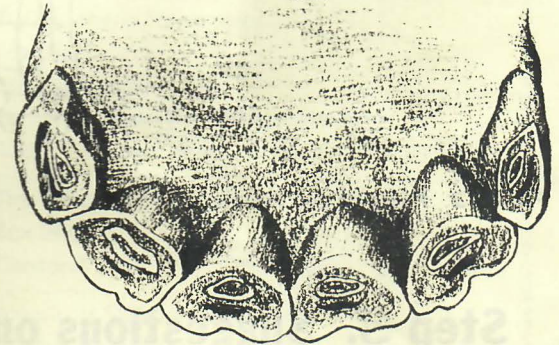
From the full mouth period on into the smooth mouth period, the age differences are shown by the degree of wear on the surfaces of the teeth.



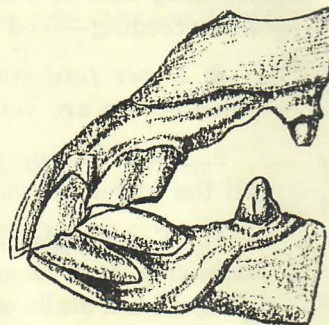
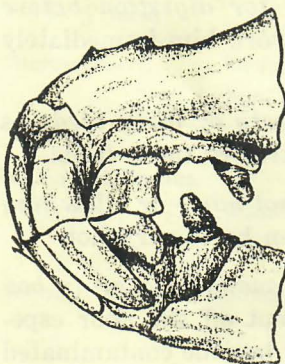
### SMOOTH MOUTH ➔

The dental cup or cavity has disappeared. The teeth have a round, rather than an oblong shape, as seen in the full mouth period.

The old mouth period in a horse's life is marked by further wear on the surface of the teeth, but largely by the front teeth pushing forward at an oblique angle.



### ◀ COMPARISON OF INCISORS AT DIFFERENT AGES



A. At 6 years.

B. At 20 years.

Photo Courtesy of California Extension Service.

Figure 3. Know the Age of Your Horse or Pony.



12. *Increase the grain allowance as the animal works harder and decrease the hay.* As work decreases, decrease the grain and increase the hay allowance.

13. *Watch your animals closely.* Is all the hay and grain being eaten? Are the animal's droppings too soft, if so, make necessary adjustments in kind and amounts of feeds. For instance, heavy feeding of a mixed feed containing molasses may be too laxative.

## hay

The quality of hay fed to horses or ponies is extremely important. Poor quality, late-cut hays requires the feeding of more expensive grains to balance the ration. Unfortunately there isn't a good method for evaluating the quality of hays without a chemical analysis. There is a great difference of opinion by the average layman as to what constitutes a good hay. The following suggestions should be followed as closely as possible in selecting good hays:

1. *Early cut hays are preferred.* Notice the difference in digestible protein and digestible energy in the hay below as the stage of growth increases. The later the hay is cut the poorer it is as a horse feed.

Stage of Growth	Digestible Protein (%)	Digestible Energy (%)
Cut at vegetative stage	18.7	70
Cut at bud stage	14.5	63
Cut at bloom stage	10.2	56
Cut at mature stage	6.4	49

2. *Leafiness of hays* is a very important consideration as much of the valuable nutrients are carried in the leaves. Hay to grade U.S. 1 or 2 should be 25 to 40 per cent leaves.

3. *Color of the hay* is important. A bleaching of the green color causes a loss of nearly 90 per cent of the vitamin A. Hay that has been rained on can lose 40-60 per cent of its feeding value. If you raise or buy *good hay* you will need less expensive grain to balance the ration.

Let's compare some of the common hays and see how the digestible protein and energy compares.

	Digestible Protein (%)	Digestible Energy (%)
Early bloom timothy	4.2	51.6
Full bloom timothy	3.2	48.0
Late cut timothy	2.4	44.4
Red clover hay		
(average analysis)	7.2	51.8
Alfalfa (leafy)	12.1	51.1
Alfalfa (good)	10.3	51.1
Alfalfa (stemmy)	8.2	47.5

Notice that timothy is lower in feeding value than the legume hays. Most of the timothy you buy would be late cut hay and therefore low in digestible protein and energy. So, the grain fed should make up the protein deficiency.

Horses or ponies should not be fed all the roughage or hay that they will eat. Heavy feeding of hay often causes labored breathing and quick tiring when at work. Usually young horses and those that are idle can be provided with an unlimited allowance of hay, but you should gradually increase the grain and decrease the hay as work or training begins. Many horsemen prefer good quality timothy and call it the best horse or pony hay. There is a tendency, however, for more legumes, such as clover and alfalfa, to be fed in horse rations. The legumes are particularly good for young stock and breeding animals. Many owners feel that a good mixed hay—clover and other grasses such as timothy—is the best hay for horses. Hay that contains a legume provides a better source of protein, minerals, and vitamins.

Probably the feeding of a straight legume hay should be discouraged except in limited amounts as this tends to increase urination and give a softer consistency to the bowel movements. Whenever roughage or even silage is fed the horse, it should be early cut, sweet, green, free from mould, unfrozen and as dust-free as possible. Select a roughage with plenty of good green color showing in the leaves and stems of the hay. We suggest that samples of hay be brought to meetings and evaluated. Young idle horses should be fed more roughage and less grain.

## grains for horses or ponies

Grain should be selected from a standpoint of cost as well as feeding value the same as roughages.

*Oats* are probably the most popular single grain for horses. They are the safest of all grains for





**Figure 4. Feeding Grain in an Outdoor Feed Rack. This Young Man Enjoys Doing This Job Twice a Day.**

horses or ponies because they are bulky, do not pack easily so will not cause colic unless eaten in great quantities. If oats are more expensive, corn may be substituted.

Corn is a heavy, high energy, low protein, high concentrated feed. You can use about 15 per cent less of it and get the same results as with oats as far as energy is concerned. Because corn is low in protein, it should be fed with linseed meal or wheat bran. This is particularly important when non-legume hay is fed. In the same way, *barley* can be substituted for corn but, because of its thick hull, should be crushed or soaked. Horses like a little variety in their feeds rather than feeding just one single grain. Wheat, wheat bran or commercial mixed feed can be fed along with oats.

*Wheat bran* is a good bulky, medium protein feed and is a good source of phosphorous. It is also somewhat laxative. It, too may be substituted for oats when the price is not too high. *Linseed meal* is a high protein feed. One-half to one pound daily may be fed when hays, such as late cut timothy, are low in protein. It is a good feed to add bloom to a horse's hair coat and is often used in fitting horses for show.

Four to ten pounds of grain daily is a good grain ration for light horses at medium or light work. Ponies may require two to four pounds daily depending on the work. The amount of grain and roughage to feed depends on the kind of work

being done by the horse or pony. Light work is considered about 2-3 hours daily, medium work is 4-5 hours daily, and heavy work is 5-8 hours of work daily. Rations are adjusted to the kind, amount, regularity and speed of work and stage of gestation and lactation. Pregnant, lactating and growing horses need extra feed in the form of protein. Energy needs are usually about the same except they are higher for milking mares.

The following are general guides for the daily ration of horses under average conditions:

1. *For horses or ponies at light work*, allow about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of grain and  $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of hay per 100 lbs. of live weight.

2. *For horses or ponies at medium work*, allow about 1 lb. of grain and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. of hay to 100 lbs. of live weight.

3. *For horses or ponies at hard work*, allow about  $1\frac{1}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{3}$  lbs. of grain and 1 lb. of hay per 100 lbs. of live weight.

You will notice that the weight of the combined hay and grain allowances will be about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. of live weight.

No grain or hay should be left at the end of each day in the manger or feedbox. Usually the grain is fed two or three times daily. Most horse-men like to feed their horses the larger quantity of hay at night as this gives the animal's digestive tract time to digest the more bulky materials during the night. In feeding hay some like to feed the animals a quarter of his hay ration in the morning, a quarter at noon and one-half at night.

A horse that has been on heavy work and is then confined to his stall for a day or more, should have his grain ration cut in half to avoid digestive disturbances and blackwater. Under these circumstances, it would be a good idea to add some bulky or laxative wheat bran to the ration.

Young animals require more protein than older animals. As a colt becomes older, the proportion of proteins required in the ration decreases.

Young, growing colts, pregnant mares, or mares suckling young, should always receive such legumes as alfalfa and clover, whereas the grasses in non-legume roughages are satisfactory for mature and idle horses.

Basically a feed should provide energy needs first, mineral needs second, and vitamin needs



third. Carbohydrates and protein supply most of the energy needs with fat also providing some. The quantities of the feeds carrying these individual nutrients will determine actual amount of energy supplied.

### **mineral needs**

The minerals that deserve the most attention and are most likely to be deficient in rations for horses are common salt, calcium, phosphorous, and iodine. It is a good idea to feed salt free-choice. You can feed it in a revolving block in the stall which the horse may lap at his leisure.

Horses or ponies that are at hard work will eat more salt as it is being lost in the sweating process.

If you purchase a mixed grain, you should look on the tag to see if the grain contains the necessary salt required. On the average, the animal will consume 1½-2 ounces of salt daily. Other mineral needs of horses, or at least the minerals that are needed to the largest extent, are calcium and phosphorous. Legume hays of any kind will carry considerable calcium. Horses that are getting wheat products, such as bran, will get the needed phosphorous.

If pastures and hay have been grown on land which has been properly fertilized there is little need to worry about calcium and phosphorous deficiencies. However, if you are not sure of this, the feeding of edible bone meal free-choice for young growing colts and pregnant and lactating mares is suggested, as they have a higher mineral need. Another common mineral mix is 60 parts by weight of steamed bone meal, 20 parts of ground limestone, 20 parts of salt. This is fed free-choice. Animals will eat only what they need.

Some horsemen make a mineral box with salt on one side and bonemeal on the other. This box, if outside, should always be protected from rain as the salt forms a brine and is not palatable.

### **vitamin needs**

The three vitamin needs that are known for the horse are A, D, and B complex vitamins. Vitamin A is carried in any good green hay, varying

in amount. It is also carried in yellow corn. Vitamin D can be obtained from the sunshine and is an essential vitamin. If Vitamin D is not available, then the minerals calcium and phosphorous are also not available. The use of these two minerals depends on the presence of Vitamin D. The combination of feeding high quality leafy green roughages and allowing the animal plenty of sunshine is usually adequate protection against vitamin A and D deficiencies in horses.

The B complex vitamins particularly riboflavin, have been found to be important to horses.

Usually adequate amounts of this vitamin are found in properly cured roughages and in pasture feeds.

### **water needs**

The average mature horse will consume about 12 gallons of water daily and even more when sweating. A mature pony could drink six gallons daily. Regularity and frequency in watering are desirable. Horses or ponies that are very warm should be given only small amounts until they have cooled out. Water may be given either before, during, or after feeding without injurious effects. Whichever method is followed it is important that this method be followed regularly. Remember that water is absolutely essential to life and that the horse can live longer without feed than without water.

### **roughing horses or ponies through the winter**

In most cases horses are used a great deal during the spring, summer and fall. In the cold winter months riding is not as popular. Horses can be held over on a small amount of feed at as low a cost as possible until the following spring. Horses that are held over in this manner should have a clean, dry shelter to bed down in, access to water and plenty of good quality roughage. If they are allowed their freedom, they will take care of themselves rather well under these conditions, if the hay or roughage is of good quality. Very poor quality hays should be supplemented by small amounts of grain. The condition of the horse will be the guide.



## Step 4. Selection and Care of Tack (Equipment)

Tack represents for our purposes all the equipment used on a horse—halter, lead strap, bridle, saddle, harness, pads and blankets. The chief reasons why tack should be properly cared for are: (1) to provide comfort for the horse (2) to insure safety of the rider and driver (3) to make it last and thus reduce its expense and (4) to improve the appearance of the horse and its rider or driver.

To preserve the strength and prolong the life of leather, regular cleaning is necessary. Tack should be cleaned after each use, especially when the horse lathers up and tack becomes covered with sweat. Oiling two or three times a year should be sufficient.

The following materials will be found useful in the care of tack: saddle soap, neat's foot oil, ammonia, sponges, lint free cloths, soft brush and stiff brush, hooks and a saw horse to keep tack off the ground while cleaning.

Assuming that your tack has not been cleaned or oiled recently, the following steps are suggested to get it into proper condition:

1. With a small sponge wrung out in water apply saddle soap to leather, and work up a stiff lather. The amount of dirt will determine how much soap, water, and elbow grease is necessary.

2. When you are satisfied that all dirt has been loosened, wipe off excess lather with wrung out sponge. If still dirty, repeat the process. Remember that the side next to the horse requires the most work.

3. If exposed metal parts are corroded, or have

stained the leather, ammonia water will loosen corrosion and help to remove stains.

4. When dirt accumulation is heavy, soften dirt with soap and water and brush with a soft brush. If necessary scrape with edge of a smooth piece of wood. Do not use metal scrapers or stiff brushes; they will scratch the leather.

5. After tack is thoroughly cleaned, and before it dries completely, oil lightly with neat's foot oil applied with a small piece of heavy cloth. Oil will darken leather if the tack is new.

6. Rub in oil by hand to get good penetration, and allow tack to stand 24 hours. Wipe off the excess oil, and polish with soft dry cloth.

7. Bits and metal parts should be washed with warm water and may be cleaned with a mild metal polish or mild ammonia solution.

8. Wooden parts such as stock or saddle stirrups may be sanded, varnished, and then waxed.

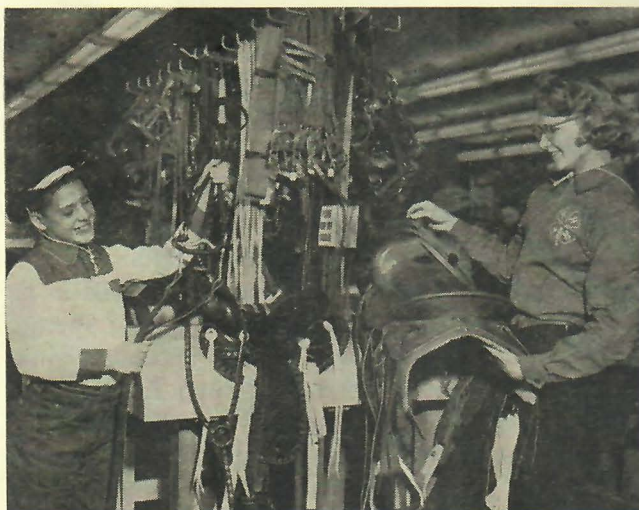
Blankets and saddle pads should be spread out flat, and hair, dried sweat, etc. removed with a stiff brush. If saddle pad is made of felt, do not soak it in water. Other blankets or pads can be hosed off, scrubbed with brush and liquid soap solution, (add a little ammonia if necessary) and hung over a fence to dry. Saddle pads or blankets should always be clean and dry to avoid sore backs.

Now that your tack is cleaned up and oiled, keep it that way by soaping and cleaning after each use. Good saddle soaps also oil leather to some extent. Too frequent oiling is detrimental to leather. Oiling should only be necessary two or three times a year. Dressings and waxes may be used to get a high polish, but cleaning is usually sufficient.

Store your tack in a cool, dry place free of dirt and dust, and keep it covered.

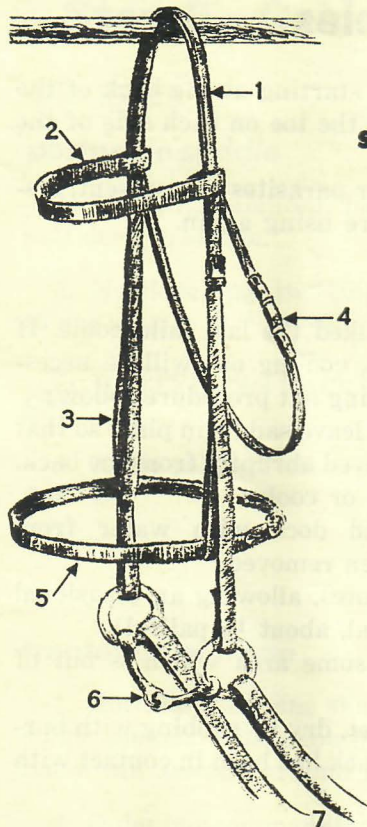
### discussion questions

1. Why should tack be cleaned after each use?
2. Why is it important to keep tack in good condition?
3. What materials are needed for a thorough cleaning job?
4. How often should leather be oiled?
5. Where should tack be stored?
6. What parts of saddle or harness require the most work?
7. How are blankets cleaned?
8. How would you clean metal parts?
9. How are felt saddle pads cleaned?
10. How can wooden stirrups be reconditioned?



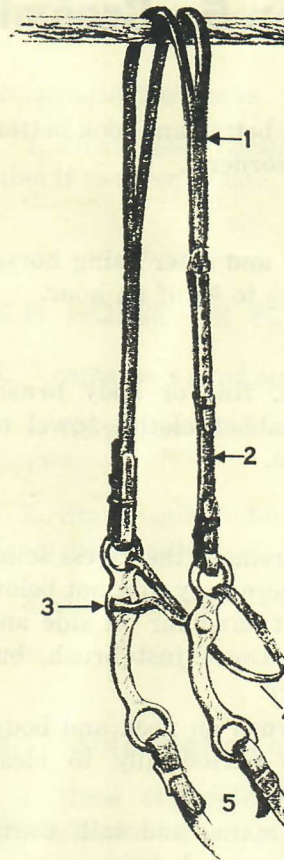
**Figure 5. Selecting Good Bridles and Saddles is Always a Pleasure, Especially if They are New. Second-hand Equipment May Do Just as Well and Will Be Less Expensive.**





### SINGLE-REINED BRIDLE WITH SNAFFLE BIT

1. Crown-piece, or Headstall
2. Browband
3. Cheek Pieces
4. Throat Latch
5. Noseband
6. Snaffle Bit
7. Reins



### SPLIT-EARED BRIDLE WITH CURB BIT

1. Crown-piece, or Headstall
2. Cheek Pieces
3. Curb Bit
4. Curb Strap
5. Reins

### WESTERN STOCK SADDLE

1. Horn
2. Fork
3. Seat
4. Cantle
5. Skirt
6. Back Housing or Back Jockey
7. Lace Strings
8. Dee Rings
9. Leather Flank Girth
10. Fender
11. Stirrup
12. Stirrup Leather
13. Front Tie Strap or Cinch Strap
14. Front Jockey and Seat Jockey, One Piece
15. Wool Lining
16. Rope Strap
17. Pommel

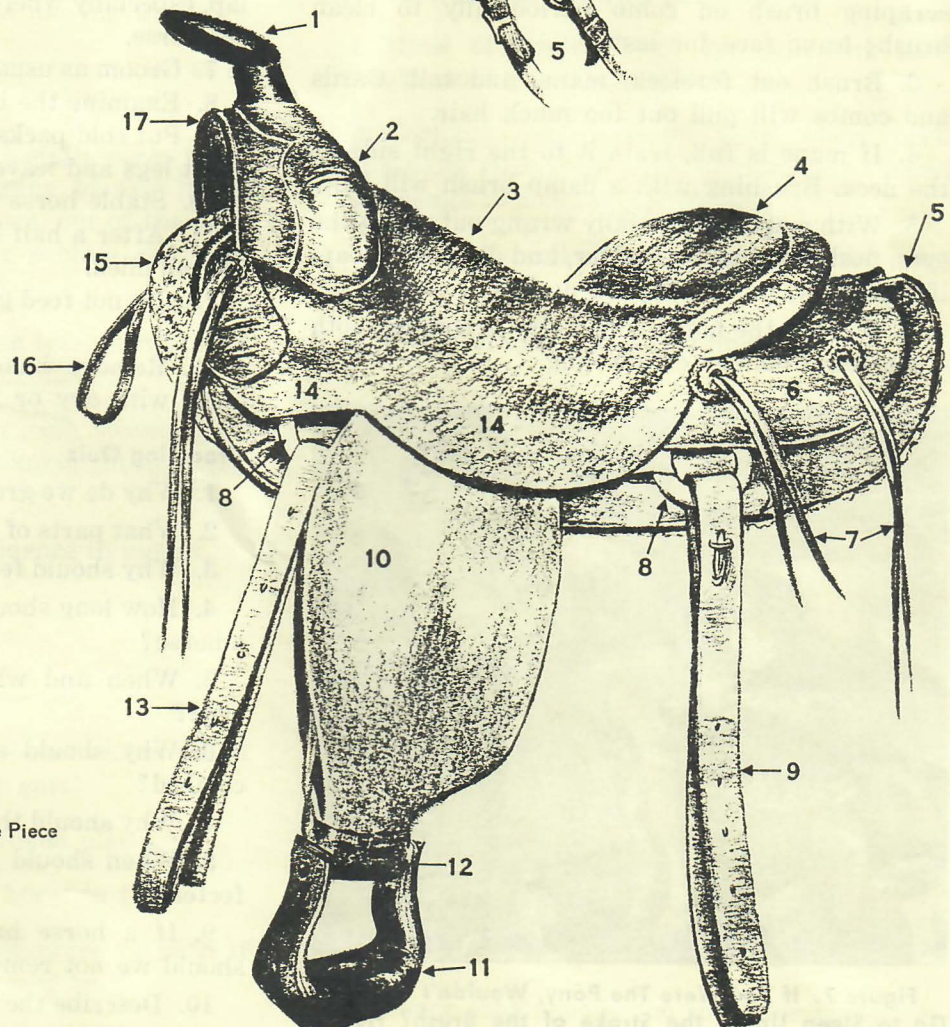


Figure 6. Know All Parts of Tack (Equipment).

Photo Courtesy of California Extension Service.



## Step 5. Grooming Horses or Ponies

### why:

To make the animal feel better and look better, and also to control skin disorders.

### when:

Daily, preferably before and after using horse. A thorough job will take  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour.

### what with:

Coarse or dandy brush, fine or body brush, curry comb, preferably rubber cloths, towel or burlap, hoof pick, sponges.

### how:

1. With a coarse brush, remove the excess scurf or mud (curry lightly, if necessary, but not below knees or hocks). Use right hand for off side and left hand for near side. Don't just brush, but really massage him all over.

2. Follow with a fine brush on neck and body, scraping brush on comb periodically to clean brush; leave face for last.

3. Brush out forelock, mane, and tail. Cards and combs will pull out too much hair.

4. If mane is full, train it to the right side of the neck. Brushing with a damp brush will help.

5. With a sponge partially wrung out, clean the eyes, nostrils, sheath or udder, and dock. Use soap, if necessary, on sheath and dock.

6. Go over the horse with a dry grooming cloth—a piece of blanket or toweling.



Figure 7. If You Were The Pony, Wouldn't You Also Go to Sleep Under the Stroke of the Brush? Horses and Ponies Like to Be Well Groomed.

7. Pick out the feet starting at the back of the frog and move toward the toe on each side of the frog.

8. If skin diseases or parasites are present, disinfect equipment before using again.

### cooling out

Horse should be walked the last mile home. If horse still returns hot, cooling out will be necessary. Steps in the cooling out procedure follow:

1. Loosen girth, but leave saddle in place so that all pressure is not relieved abruptly from the back.

2. Put on a blanket or cooler.

3. Sponge head and dock with water from which the chill has been removed.

4. Walk for 10 minutes, allowing an occasional swallow of water (total, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  pailful).

5. Remove tack in some area which is out of draft.

6. If horse is still wet, dry by rubbing with burlap, especially where tack has been in contact with the horse.

7. Groom as usual.

8. Examine the back, feet, and legs for injury.

9. Put cold packs (wet derby bandages) on the front legs and leave on for two hours.

10. Stable horse with hay but no water.

11. After a half hour, give water and keep pail in stall filled.

12. Do not feed grain for one hour after cooling out.

13. Remove bandages, massage legs, and replace with dry or rest bandages.

### Grooming Quiz

1. Why do we groom horses?
2. What parts of the horse take the most time?
3. Why should feet be picked out daily?
4. How long should it take to thoroughly groom a horse?
5. When and where should a curry comb be used?
6. Why should a tail be brushed rather than combed?
7. Why should the dock be washed?
8. When should grooming equipment be disinfected?
9. If a horse has been on a long ride, why should we not remove the saddle immediately?
10. Describe the method for "cooling out" a hot horse.



## Step 6. Guide to Rides—Trails, Roads, and Open Country

### 4-H RIDER

#### *posture in saddle*

1. Upright, balanced, balls of feet in stirrups, seat deep in saddle.
2. No slouching, twisting sideways, or hanging to one side.
3. Weight should be *forward* both up and down hills.
4. Arms relaxed, elbows in, wrists and fingers flexible.

#### *treatment of horse*

1. Good hands, reins short enough to have constant contact with mouth, but long enough so horse can see the ground it is moving over.
2. Quiet but commanding voice when used as an aid.
3. Concern for horse at lunch stop: loosen girth, fix English stirrups from dangling, blanket if cold weather, move the horse if warm, out of the wind if possible, and check feet for pebbles and loose shoes.
4. Horse may drink water on trail during ride, even if warm, but must be kept moving.
5. Proper cooling at end of ride, loosen girth but leave saddle in place until horse is completely cooled out.
6. Inspire courage and confidence in mount.

#### *courtesy*

1. Ask permission to pass a horse and move off a short ways before changing gait.
2. Wait for horses in hazardous places.
3. Ride good distance from horse in front.
4. Pull off trail with nose of horse to path if someone wishes to pass on narrow trail.
5. Answer all judges' questions politely.

#### *appropriate dress*

1. Neat, clean comfortable—jeans very acceptable if to rider's taste. Riding boots recommended.

### 4-H HORSE OR PONY

#### *I. manners and suitability*

1. Calm yet alert on trail and among other horses.
2. Stands quietly for mounting and dismounting from either side.
3. Suitability of horse or pony for rider.

#### *II. conformation and soundness*

1. Head of quality with eye reflecting alert character and good disposition.
2. Compact, well-balanced body, short back, well-sprung ribs, good slope to shoulder, withers high enough to hold saddle.
3. Straight, well-placed legs, good feet, easy gaits.
4. Sound of eyes, wind, and limbs.

#### *III. condition*

1. Suitable to do task at hand without tiring.
2. Finishing strong and alert, not over-heated.

#### *IV. equipment*

1. Tack clean and in good repair, fitted to the horse or pony.
2. Soft, clean, wool saddle pad.
3. If weather is sharp, blanket for during lunch stop.
4. Lunch stop usually too short for feed; however, hay only if horse is to receive food.



## Step 7. Stable Development and Management

Stalls used for horses are either box or tie stalls. The type selected often depends upon the space available for housing. Since most light horses and ponies are not used regularly, and weather conditions may also limit exercise, a box stall should be provided if at all possible.

### **size**

A box stall should be at least 10' x 10' or 10' x 12'. 12' x 12' is better. A tie stall for horses should be 5' wide and 8' to 9' long, and for ponies 3' wide and 6' long.

### **walls**

Build of smooth planks, either spaced or solid. If spaced, make sure foot cannot be caught between planks. Avoid projections of all kinds (nails, wire, hooks or splinters).

### **floors**

Well-drained earth floor is most comfortable; planks next; and concrete last. Planks rot out, and calks may get caught between planks. A board floor will not usually support the weight of a horse. Concrete floors are hard, and more bedding is necessary to provide comfort. Earth floors have the disadvantage that some horses will paw holes in the floor.

### **ceilings**

Many stalls do not provide enough head room for a horse. Ceiling should be at least 8 feet high; 9 feet is better. If too high, they may be too cold in winter.

### **wood preservative**

Creosote will help not only to preserve the wood against rotting, but also to discourage cribbing or wood chewing. Metal strips on top planks and gates may be necessary.

### **mangers**

Locate at convenient height for size of horse. Feed box and hay racks may be of metal or wooden construction. Do not feed off the floor where manure can contaminate feed. Water should be available at all times in a bucket or

drinking bowl. Make sure water utensils are not contaminated by manure or filled up with hay. Fresh water is necessary to maintain a healthy horse. Salt in block form should be provided, either on a wall hanger or in the feed box. If your horse consumes too much salt, put the salt block in the feed box and he will not overeat salt. Manger, feed boxes, and water buckets must be kept clean and free of old moldy feed.

### **doors**

Doors should be 3 feet 6 inches to 4 feet wide to avoid injury, and constructed of rugged material such as the side walls of stall. Hardware to close the door should be simple, and easily unfastened. Avoid "combinations" which can cause trouble and delay in emergencies. Doors may be hung on heavy T-hinges or may slide on a track.

### **windows**

Windows are necessary for cross ventilation in summer, and light the year round. Protect them against breakage with heavy woven wire or slats. The old idea of dark stalls for horses is out-of-date.

### **bedding**

A soft, dry bed should always be provided. Materials used are peat moss, straw, shavings, and sawdust. Peat moss and straw are best, but are expensive. Shavings and sawdust may be available at a local sawmill. A mixture of old hay and shavings makes a satisfactory bed. Lumpy and hard bedding is uncomfortable to animals. Scatter the sections of straw bales thoroughly when you add fresh bedding. Also, use a fork to loosen packed, hard bedding in the stable. The amount of bedding required depends on the type of stall floor and outside weather conditions. Capped hocks may result from insufficient bedding.

### **manure disposal**

Remove manure and urine soaked bedding at least once daily. Dry bedding need not be replaced each day. Compost manure in a square stack. Greenhouses and nurseries often have need for well rotted horse manure.



## **grooming area**

If space is available, groom horse outside stall where he can be cross-tied on a clear, level floor area. If space is limited, cross-tie and groom him in the stall or outside if weather permits.

## **tack room**

Some area should be provided where tack can be stored in a cool, dry place. A tack room need not be elaborate. A medium-sized closet is usually large enough, and will provide room for one or two saddles, bridles, and harnesses. Keep tack clean and covered on hangers built to fit the equipment.

## **tack box**

A tack box is useful to store equipment, or transport it to and from shows or fairs. Any medium sized trunk or covered wooden box with handles is suitable. Allow room for grooming equipment such as halter and lead, saddle and bridle, first aid supplies, and cotton and derby bandages.

## **paddocks**

Paddocks should be as large as possible, and located conveniently to stall. If no trees are available for shade, allow free access to stall during hot summer days. Paddocks should be examined periodically for pieces of glass, metal and nails which might lodge in feet.

There is no excuse for paddocks being littered with boards, broken machinery, old wire fencing, or bicycles!

## **fencing**

Rail fence 4 feet high or more, made of boards, poles, or split rails is the safest, but most expensive. Woven wire fence allows the feet to be caught, and can tear quarters or pull shoes. Electric fence can be added on the inside to teach some respect of fences and to prevent rubbing on rails or wire. Barbed wire should never be used. In large pastures where feed is abundant and plenty of exercise is available, the type of fence is less important.

### **Questions you can answer at 4-H meetings**

1. Why should stalls be cleaned every day?
2. Name four kinds of bedding. What are advantages of each?
3. Why should the walls of stalls be smooth?
4. What is meant by "cribbing"? How can it be discouraged?
5. What is the danger of low ceilings?
6. What provisions for feeding are found in well equipped stall?
7. What are the best fences for paddocks?
8. Why is a tack room recommended?
9. Name articles usually found in a tack box.
10. Describe your method of bedding down a stall.



## Step 8. Gaits of Horses (Ponies Walk and Trot)

The various speeds or ways that a horse may move are spoken of as gaits. The three natural gaits are the walk, the trot, and the canter. The fundamental gait of them all is the walk. Much time should be spent teaching a horse to walk with good, flat-footed, springy action. Once the walk is developed thoroughly the other gaits will come easily. A well-trained riding horse should respond and change to each gait readily.

### ***the walk***

The walk is a two-beat gait commenced by the diagonal fore and hind feet taking a forward step and striking the ground and placed down flat-footed; the stride should be long enough so that it is not choppy. It should be brisk, elastic and carried straight forward from one contact point with the ground to the next. Listening to the beat of the feet will sound like two beats; however, the sequence of the feet striking the ground is right fore, left rear, left fore, right rear. A horse that has been properly trained should walk at least four miles an hour.

### ***the trot***

The trot is a rapid forward movement in which the two diagonal feet moving together strike the ground at the same time, while the body remains in perfect balance. The trot should be square, balanced, springy, with a straight forward movement of the feet, with various degrees of flex on the knees and hocks. The hocks should be well under the hind quarter, giving him a balanced stride.

The gait should be posted when riding a horse with an English saddle. Under western equipment the rider sits trot and the far is broken by the spring in the foot and ankle of the rider.

### ***the canter***

The canter is a restrained gallop executed with either front foot leading. The canter is a three-beat gait in which two diagonal legs moving together are balanced as a pair. This is an easy rhythmical three-beat gait in which the weight is sustained by the hind quarters and the rear legs act as a means of momentum.

The canter is a very interesting gait to observe in slow motion. A horse will lead with one front foot, carrying it higher than the other feet. This is the first foot to leave and the last to come in

contact with the ground. The sequence of the beats, for a horse leading with the left front foot, is right rear, left rear and right front at about the same instant, then the left front. A well trained horse should take the canter on command and always leads with the front foot nearest the center of the ring. The canter should be slow and the horse well collected.

The walk, trot, and canter are natural gaits for most horses. The five-gaited saddle horse is also known as the "American saddle horse." In addition to the above three gaits, the five-gaited saddle horse is called upon to do the rack and slow gait.

### ***the rack***

The Rack is a four-beat gait sometimes described as the "single-foot" because each foot strikes the ground at a different interval. The rack is a very easy gait on the rider but is hard and tiring on the horse. Great emphasis is placed on the rack in judging five-gaited horses in the show ring.

### ***the slow gait***

The Slow Gait may be one of several gaits such as the amble, slow pace, stepping pace, running walk, or the so-called foxtrot. The current fashion in the show ring is to favor the so-called stepping pace. This is merely a broken pace in which the fore and hind leg on the same side of the body meet the ground at only a slightly broken interval, rather than with both feet hitting the ground simultaneously as in the true pace.

In the show ring, the mane and tail of five-gaited horses are left full. The mane and tail of the three-gaited horse are trimmed.

### ***running walk***

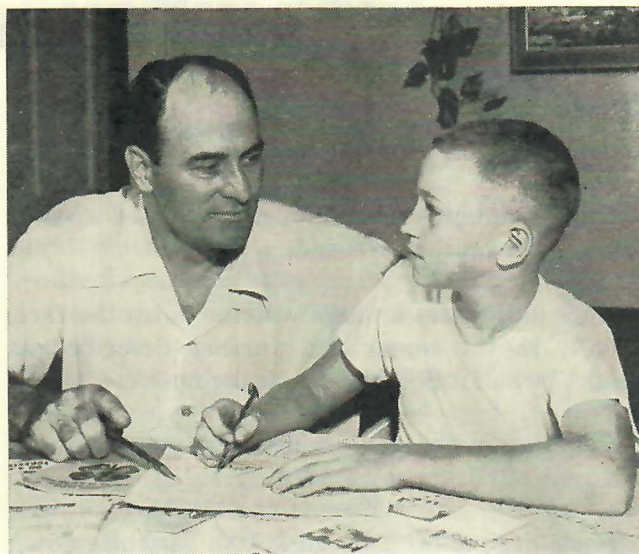
Another gait is seen in the breed of horses known as the "Tennessee walking horse." The Tennessee walking horse has three gaits: the walk, the running walk, and the canter. The running walk is distinctive to the breed and one that is "born" and not "made." A horse at the running walk will move at a speed of six to eight miles an hour. It is started like the flat-foot walk, is a diagonally-opposed movement, and as the speed is increased, the hind foot usually oversteps the front track from a few inches to as many as 18.



## Step 9. Keeping Records

You should keep a record of the cost of owning your horse or pony. We want you to keep a daily *stable record*, and this should be transferred to your monthly regular record. Fill out other information about your animal and answer the questions.

**Figure 8. Getting Help from Your 4-H Leader or Dad Will Be Important in Record Keeping and General Animal Science.**



## Step 10. Know the Colors of Horses or Ponies

*Black* (blk) is applied to the coat of uniform black hairs.

*Jet black* (jet blk) is a black of a brilliant luster.

*Rusty black* (rusty blk) is the coat nearly black, but lacking sufficient pigment to be termed black.

*Chestnut* (ch) is a medium golden color.

*Light chestnut* (lt ch) is a chestnut of yellowish tint.

*Dark chestnut* (dk ch) is a cinnamon shade bordering on brown.

*Bay* (b) is a reddish color of medium shade.

*Light bay* (lt b) is a light red shade bordering on brown.

*Brown* (br) is the color of the coat almost rusty black and distinguished therefrom by the reddish coloration around the nostrils, axillae, elbows, flanks, etc.

*Gray* (gr) is applied to a coat of mixed white and dark colored hairs, about equal in numbers.

*Light gray* (lt gr) is a shade of gray in which the white hairs predominate.

*Dark gray* (dk gr) is a dark shade of gray in which the dark hairs predominate.

*Iron gray* (ir gr) is a bluish shade of gray resembling a freshly broken piece of iron and includes the "blue" and "grayish blue" coats.

*Flea-bitten-gray* (fb gr) is a dark gray coat intermixed with small patches of whitish hairs.

*Mouse* (m) is an ashy gray shade resembling the color of the mouse.

*White* (w) is an absence of pigment.

*Roan* (r) is applied to a coat of red, white, and black hairs, usually red and white on body with black mane and tail.

*Strawberry roan* (st r) is a shade of roan in which the red hairs predominate.

*Piebald* (pd) is applied to the coat divided into patches of white and black only.

*Pied black* (p blk), *pied bay* (p b), and *pied roan* (p r), are terms used to designate the patched coats of white and black, white and bay, or white and roan.

*Dapple* (d) is prefixed to the designation of any color when spots the size of a silver dollar, or thereabout, and lighter or darker overlay the basic color.



## Step 11. Learn The Markings

The following are the principal white or other contrasting hair markings.

*Star* designates a small, clearly defined area of white hairs on the forehead.

*Race* designates a narrow stripe down the face, usually in the center and further described as "short" when it does not reach the nose.

*Snip* designates a white mark between the nostrils.

*Blaze* designates a broad splash of white down the face. It is intermediate between a race and a white face.

*White face* means that the face is white from forehead to muzzle.

*Silver mane and tail* designates the reflection of white in these appendages.

*White pastern* means that the white extends from coronet to and including the pastern.

*Quarter stocking* means that the white hairs extend from coronet to and including the fetlock.

*Half stocking* means that the leg is white from the coronet to an inch above the fetlock.

*Three-quarter stocking* designates that the white hairs extend to midway between fetlock and knee or hock.

*Full stocking* designates the leg white to or including the knee or hock. Cowlick is a term applied to a tuft of hair presenting an inverse circular growth.

*Black points* means black mane, tail, and extremities.

*Ray* designates the dark line found along the back of some horses.

*Cross* designates the dark line over the withers from side to side.

*Zebra* marks designate the dark, horizontal stripes seen on the forearm and the knee.

## Step 12. How to Measure Height

The height of a horse or pony is expressed in hands. A hand is four inches. A horse is measured by first placing the animal on a level foundation and causing him to stand squarely on all four feet. The perpendicular distance from the highest point

of the withers (center of the arch) to the ground is then measured with a stick that is graduated in hands and inches. The cross bar must rest firmly on the withers and the upright must be perpendicular.



## Step 13. General Care and Management

### Take Care of the Legs and Feet

When the colt lets you pick up his feet easily, trim the hoofs by rasping down any parts that are too long. Often the heels are too high. These should be lowered to allow the frog to take part of the load. Level the sides until the hoof sets evenly on the ground. Trim the toes and heel so that the front line of the hoof is in the same direction as a line through the center of the pastern. Crooked, twisted feet, if neglected at this stage, will become permanent and injure the value of the grown horse.

### How to Groom Your Colt

The wise horseman uses only a brush and a cloth to clean his horse. A curry comb is rather severe on the tender skin of a colt. Careful horse-men use the curry comb merely to clean the brush. Many horses become mean if a stiff-bristled brush is used roughly. Use a soft-bristled brush on the body, back, and legs.

### Accidents and Diseases

Foals must learn about wire fences. These lessons often leave a cut or bruise. Take every precaution possible to avoid accidents. When a cut is neglected, it often becomes infected and an unsightly scar results.

### How to Treat Cuts and Injuries

Cleanliness, fresh air and sunlight are the best cures for cuts and injuries. As soon as an injury is discovered, disinfect the wound with tincture of iodine if the cut is small. After the wound has healed, grease it often with petrolatum so that the hair will grow. Use a fly powder to repel flies if the injury occurs during the fly season. If a cut is deep, a veterinarian should be called.

### Diseases Common to Horses and Ponies

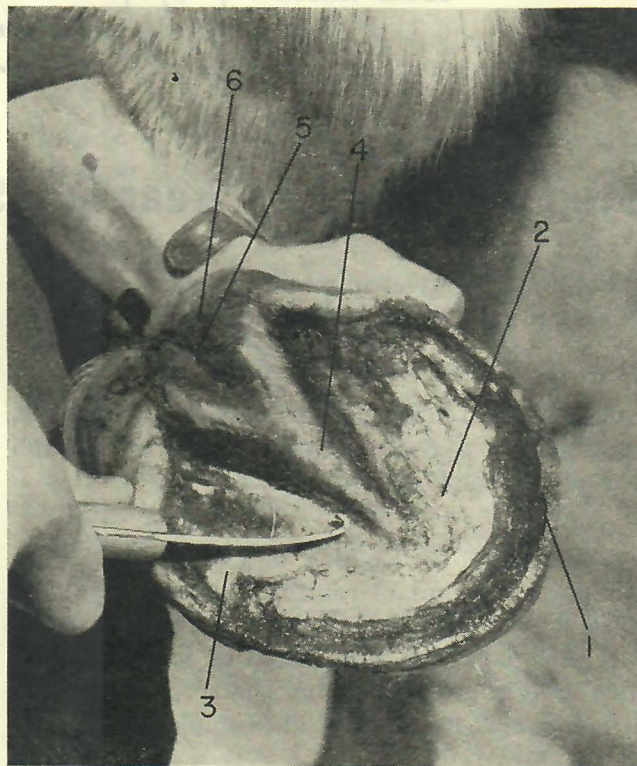
Horses should be guarded against outbreaks of diseases, even though they are in good health. Distemper is a very common disease. Distemper and other sicknesses which affect horses should be left in the care of a good veterinarian. Sleeping sickness has become a common disease of horses in

some states. Vaccination during late spring has given good control.

Bran mashes and green feed, if available, are very valuable to animals which are not in good health. To make a bran mash, place two quarts of clean oats in a container, add enough boiling water to cover, then add two quarts of bran. Cover container with sacks and let stand for 10 or 15 minutes. Mix mash thoroughly and feed to animal when it is about body temperature. A bran mash should be fed every other day until the horse is well. Succulent feeds should be fed, because sick horses do not exercise much and may become constipated.

Never use a knife on the frog of a horse's foot.

The frog is a buffer. It takes up the jar and keeps the foot healthy. The more frog there is, the better, and the more sound the horse will be.



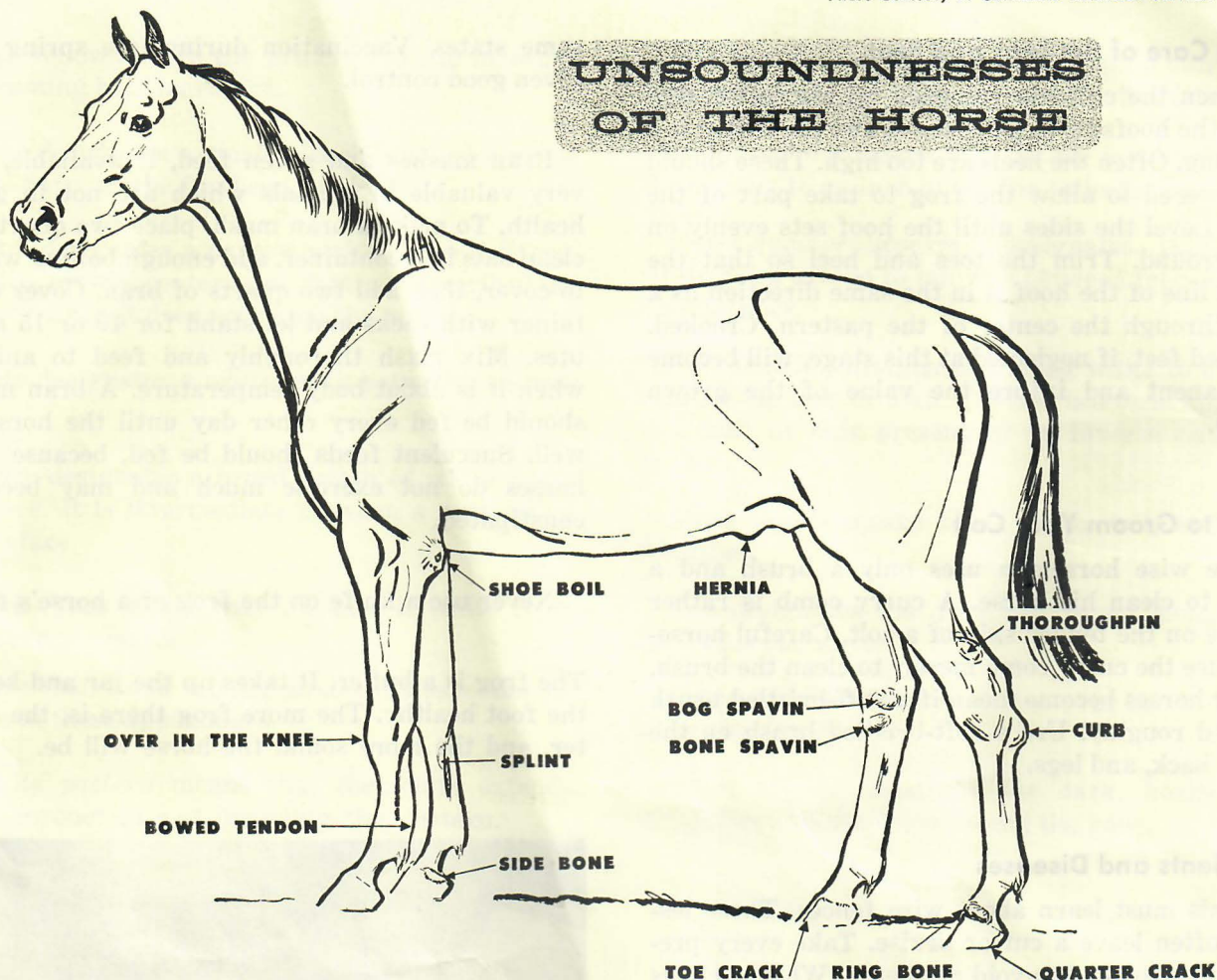
**Figure 9. Keeping the Feet Trimmed and Cleaned Out is a Weekly to Monthly Job, Especially in Winter.**

Parts of the hoof are: 1 wall, 2 sole, 3 buttress, 4 frog, 5 cleft of the frog, and 6 heel.



**Figure 10. Learning the Unsoundness Will Be to Your Advantage in Buying or Selling Horses or Ponies.**

*Photo Courtesy of California Extension Service.*



## **Step 14. What to Wear in a Show**

For western style riding, bright shirts and kerchiefs are appropriate as well as high-heeled boots.

In this group, anything goes in the way of clothes.

However, keep in mind that for the sake of safety, you should comply as much as possible with standards as they have been set up.

Using a flat or English saddle, you can wear jodhpurs, breeches, or reinforced dungarees. With slacks or dungarees you can wear plain low shoes, with jodhpurs high laced shoes or jodhpur boots, with breeches regular riding boots. A short jacket or riding coat and a plain hat complete the outfit.

You present the best appearance if you dress inconspicuously. Bright greens and reds are considered the badge of the novice. The same thing applies to women's make-up, which should be kept to a minimum.



**Figure 11. Jackets, Jeans, Sweaters, or White T-Shirts Are Good Pieces of Clothing to Wear. Neat, Well-Pressed Clothing With Clean, Polished Shoes Will Make a Hit With Everyone.**



*(This may apply to ponies)*

## Step 15. Handling Your Horse

### **safety precautions**

The horse is a timid animal and reacts violently when frightened. However, there is no need to be afraid of horses if certain common-sense precautions are used. The reverse of this is also true. If a rider is overconfident or careless about horses, sooner or later he will be injured.

*Always Warn a Horse When You Walk Up Behind Him.* The horse is always on the defensive.

If he suddenly becomes aware of something behind him, his immediate instinct—prompted by fear—is either to kick or run. If tied or confined in a stall, the animal cannot run, so he usually kicks. When a rider is kicked it is usually through his own carelessness in not observing this rule. If it is necessary to approach a horse from the rear, speak to him to warn of your presence. As soon as the animal is aware of you, stroke gently on the croup, then move calmly to the head, keeping always close in to the horse's body.

*Work About a Horse From a Position As Near the Shoulder As Possible.* In this way, you cannot be touched by either front or hind feet of the horse.

*Always Walk Around Your Horse.* Never walk under the tie rope nor step over it.

*Always Work Close To a Horse.* If this rule is followed, you cannot be struck by the feet, nor will you receive the full force of a kick. This is particularly true when passing around the horse's rear, or in working about the haunches.

*Always Let The Horse Know What You Intend To Do.* For instance, when picking up the feet, do not reach for and seize the foot hurriedly, as this will startle the horse and might cause him to kick.

*Attendants Should Not Be Loud or Rowdy.*

Noise makes a horse jumpy and nervous both on the ground and under saddle. Eventually, some horses will react by kicking. A sharp tone of voice may be used for checking an animal, but your voice should never be louder than is required to meet the situation.

*Treatment Should Be Firm and Gentle.* Horses require kind, gentle treatment. There are few vicious horses. Most of those became vicious through abuse. However, you must be firm and consistent. Decide what you want from your horse, and insist on getting it.

Do not punish your horse, except at the instant of his disobedience. If you wait even a minute he will not understand why you are punishing him.

Punish without anger, lest your punishment be too severe. Never strike or kick your horse about the head or legs.

### **at the start and end of a ride**

Start slowly when you leave the stables. Give your horse time to warm up a little before you increase his speed.

Walk your horse near the end of your ride. Arrive at the stable with your horse partly cooled.

In cold weather, if your horse is sweating or heated, put a blanket on him and walk him slowly until he is cooled.

If your horse is wet, put him under shelter and rub with a grooming cloth or a handful of straw or hay until he is warm and dry.

Unless you are going to exercise your horse to cool him off, do not water him until he has cooled. While exercising, a swallow or two of water may be given, but do not let the horse drink all he wants until he is thoroughly cooled.

If your horse is in a heated condition from work or riding, do not feed grain or fresh grass until he is cooled. Clean hay will not hurt him at this time.

When resting your horse during a long ride in warm weather, leave the saddle on the horse, but loosen the girth immediately upon dismounting.

Thoroughly clean your horse after a ride before putting him up for the night.





**Figure 12. Lots of Practice Will Make You and Your Horse a Perfect Picture in the Saddle Class.**

### **prevent vices**

Careful handling of your horse can prevent some of his vices. Kicking is a vice frequently caused by handlers teasing, abusing, tickling or pinching a horse. Some horses kick only at other horses. Such a kick is usually preceded by the horse putting back his ears. This is the time to speak sharply to him, rap him with a whip, touch him with a spur, or give him a sharp tug at the

reins. Other horses kick only at human beings. Extreme care must be exercised around such animals. They can never be trusted. A sharp rap with a whip at the instant of the kick is sometimes helpful. A careful groom can sometimes educate a kicker out of this vice.

Biting is another vice. A confirmed biter should be muzzled or fitted with a large wooden bit. A rap on the nose at the instant of biting will help cure an occasional biter. Never tease a horse to make him bite even in play.

Rearing is usually caused by too severe a bit or too heavy a hand. Use a snaffle bit on the animal inclined to rearing. When a horse rears with you, lean well forward, use your legs strongly, and exert a downward pull on the reins. When a horse is on all four feet, urge him forward again.

Shying is a disagreeable and dangerous habit, resulting either from playfulness, poor vision, or timidity. Do not whip the horse when he shys at an object, but try to coax him to go up to a thing that has frightened him and see for himself that it is harmless. When riding a "shyer," the horseman must be on the alert and be prepared for sudden jumps.

Patience pays off with balky horses. Do not whip a balky horse. Speak gently to him, pulling him to the right and left alternately with the reins. Be patient, and do not try to hurry him.

## **Step 16. Teaching Your Horse or Pony**

### **1. neckrein**

In the training of a stock horse, it is imperative that he be taught to neckrein properly, and there are various ways of teaching this. Place the rein against the neck opposite the direction you wish to turn. Using the other rein, pull the colt in the right direction. This slow process may be accelerated by lightly touching his neck with a pin or nail where the reins touch his neck. This will teach him to turn his neck in the opposite direction to get away from the pricking. Also, the reins may be crossed under the neck and thus the colt is neckreined when guiding in either direction. Eventually the colt will react to the touch of the rein on his neck. This trait is acquired more rapidly by colts trained with hackamores.

### **2. ground tie**

The stock horse is only as valuable as his training makes him. Many times the work involves standing in the middle of the field while the rider may be doing something in that area, so that it is important that a well-trained stock horse be taught to ground tie. Often there isn't any place to tie him, and you want him so trained that whenever the reins are dropped to the ground he will stand as if he were tied. Each person may have his own particular way to teach ground tying but any method, if completely carried out, will accomplish the same purpose.

After the colt has become bridle wise and respects the bit you have in his mouth, take him to the center of a large paddock and have a 50 pound



weight available about where you want to let the colt stand. Tie one rein to the handle of the weight, and drop the end of the other rein to the ground and then walk away. Each time the colt attempts to move from this area he finds that he is tied. Move the weight around to different areas so that the colt finds that each time the reins are dropped he is tied. A wagon-box rod about 18 inches long, sharpened at one end, with a ring in the opposite end, can be carried with you. Each time you stop, push the rod into the ground as far as the ring in the end will permit and tie one rein to the ring. This rod, hardly detectable to the colt, can be carried to different areas.

Another method is to fasten short pieces of wire to boards and bury them in different places around the farm and tie a rein to the wire when the colt is to be ground-tied.

Also, you can tie one rein to the colt's left front foot just below the knee, then as he starts to walk off he jerks himself. This method should be used with caution because if the colt is tied too closely, he may break his bridle and become head shy.

### 3. back

It's important as part of the training of every horse that he stand quietly and back readily. Each trainer has his own way of teaching a horse to back, and any way that he is familiar with is satisfactory. Many times you will see the rider or driver pull on the reins until the horse or colt has to step back. This method is apt to get the horse in the habit of sulking, as he resents being forced to back.

In teaching the horse to back, the first training should be started from the ground. The horse or

colt should be held with the trainer having the reins in one hand and a short riding whip in the other. Give the command to back and at the same time apply a little pressure to the bit, followed by a light tap of the whip on the horse's chest. After this is done a few times the horse soon learns to step back on command—when a little pressure is applied to the bit. After the horse learns this step, he is ready to be worked the same way with someone driving him or someone in the saddle; for a few times someone with a whip should be at his head. As soon as the horse moves back lighten the pressure on the reins.

If a horse is in a stretched or parked position, he should be stepped one step forward to a natural position before being asked to back.



**Figure 13. A Helper is Needed to Train the Pony to Stretch and Look Good for the Judge at the County 4-H Pony Show.**



## Step 17. Pasturing Horses and Ponies

If pasture is available, the grass can be the best and cheapest way to feed your animal. The following grasses are excellent: bluegrass, brome grass, orchard grass, and timothy. Legumes that are considered good especially if used with a grass com-

bination are alfalfa, red clover, and lespedeza. One thing for sure, your animal cannot overeat on the regular grass pastures.

Good pastures are a necessity for foals, colts, and brood mares.

## Step 18. Learn Horse and Pony Terms and Definitions

(Here are some common horse terms with which you should be familiar)

1. *Foal*—a young horse or pony of either sex up to one year of age.

2. *Filly*—young female.

3. *Colt*—young horse, may refer to young horses of either sex.

4. *Yearling*—colt or filly that is at least one year but not yet two years old.

5. *Mare*—mature female.

6. *Horse or stallion*—a mature male.

7. *Gelding*—an unsexed male.

8. *Gait*—a manner of walking, running, or moving. (See section on gaits)

9. *Bloom*—refers to hair that is clean and of a healthy texture.

10. *Conformation*—body shape or form.

11. *Palatable*—pleasing to the taste, easily digested.

12. *Heavy middled*—an animal that has too much belly.

13. *Stylish*—having a pleasing, graceful, and alert general appearance.

14. *Action*—movement of the feet and legs—should be straight and true.

15. *Thrifty condition*—healthy, active, vigorous.

16. *Soundness*—freedom from any abnormal deviation in structure or function that interferes with the horse's usefulness. A horse is considered sound when it has no defects in wind, legs, or eyesight.

17. *Bolting*—running away, sudden jump.

18. *Groom*—to groom a horse is to clean and brush him.

19. *Horsemanship*—art of riding the horse and of understanding his needs.

20. *Tack*—equipment used in riding, such as saddle, bridle, blanket.



## Step 19. What Do I Show?

Your 4-H horse and pony show will be the highlight of your 4-H experiences in this project.

This exhibit will give you a chance to find out how well you have managed, trained your horse or pony and even yourself. In completion you will find friendly rivalry and we believe that this will be an excellent way for you to find good sportsmanship.

You should show your horse or pony in the classes provided for you at your county 4-H exhibit. Your county 4-H horse and pony committee will attempt to provide classes in which you may show.

The following classes for your exhibit are suggested.

### I. Fitting and Showmanship Classes

1. For ponies under 46 inches at the halter or under saddle.

- a. Yearling—gelding or mare.
- b. Two-year-old.
- c. Three-year-olds and older.

2. For ponies over 46 inches at the halter or under saddle.

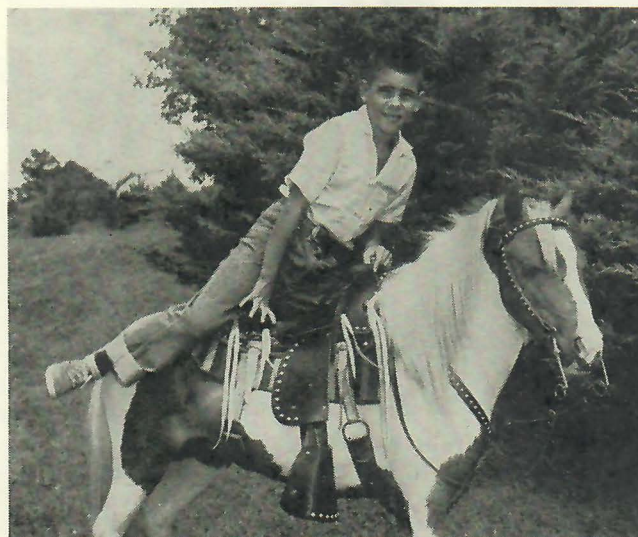
- a. Yearling—gelding or mare.
- b. Two-year-old.
- c. Three-year-olds and older.

3. For horses.

- a. Western horses at halter.  
10 to 14-year-old members  
14 and above members
- b. Western horses under saddle.  
10 to 14-year-old members  
14 and above members

### II. Breeding Classes

1. Yearling filly at the halter.
2. Two-year-old mare at the halter.
3. Mare and foal at the halter.
4. Special classes may be added.



**Figure 14. Mounting a Well Groomed Pony. Notice the Clean Tack. This Pony Was Trained to Stand Still Until the Rider Gave the Signal.**

### III. Special Novelty or Game Classes

#### Musical Chairs

Chairs, one less than riders, are placed in ring facing outward. Contestants ride in circle outside ring of chairs. Music or whistle is used for signals. When music stops or whistle blows, contestants dismount and attempt to sit in a chair retaining hold of the horse's reins. Contestant not seated is eliminated and one chair removed. This is repeated until one chair remains. Winner is last contestant seated.

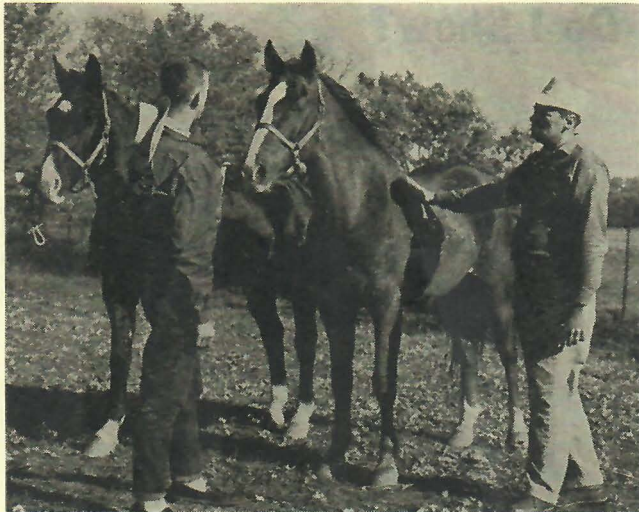
#### Relay Races

There are many variations of these events. Contestants are divided into teams. Any number can be on a team as long as it is a multiple of two. Each team is divided in half, with one half at each end of a course 50 yards long. The first rider is handed an object, gallops across the course and hands it to the next team member, who returns to the original point and gives it to the third, and so on. Teams are timed to select winner.

#### Potato Race

Each contestant spears a potato, rides 50 yards, puts it into a bucket, and returns. This is repeated until five potatoes are in the bucket. Many variations are possible by substituting an egg in a spoon, or glass of water.





**Figure 15. Train Your Horse to Stand so That the Judge Can Touch Him. Take Lots of Time to Do This at Home, and Let Others Be the Practice Judge.**

### Spearing Rings

Rings two inches in diameter are suspended with strings 100 yards from starting line. Riders gallop from starting line and try to spear ring with bamboo pole without changing gait. Contestants are alternated. Best out of five tries is winner.

### Cake Eating Race

A piece of cake is suspended on a string for each contestant at far end of course. Riders gallop 50 yards, eat cake off string, and return. Touching cake with hands disqualifies contestant.

### Mounted Square Dance

Participants are divided into couples. Music can be provided by a record player and amplifier. A caller directs the riders through many folk dance movements which can be done on horseback.

### Stake Race

Lines of stakes are driven in the ground for each contestant. Drive just deep enough so they won't fall over. Three-foot smooth stakes (without splinters) about broom handle size are ideal. Contestants ride to farthest stake, pull it up without dismounting, carry it back to starting point, drop it in a box and repeat until all stakes are in the box.

### Suitcase Race

Each rider receives a light suitcase with a shirt enclosed, gallops 50 yards, dismounts, opens suitcase, puts on shirt, closes suitcase, runs back to starting point, carrying case and leading horse.